

FacultyLine

Office of the University Faculty, 138 Fawcett Hall (937) 775-2039
Faculty Line #214, February 3, 2012

Monday's Faculty Senate meeting promises to be a particularly busy one. New business will include a discussion of 13 resolutions and two policy changes proposed by an ad hoc committee that evaluated ways that we can make it more likely for our students to succeed. Another important item of new business will be the discussions associated with a new workload agreement for non-bargaining unit faculty (e.g. instructors, lecturers and senior lecturers) from the Faculty Affairs Committee. And, as part of old business we will be looking again at changes to the Faculty Handbook – parts of which have not changed since 1992. Altogether, a very full agenda.

Student Success – In October of last year the Faculty Senate Executive Committee created an ad hoc committee to review a report from the Provost's Office titled Access, Progress, Success: Recommendations for Increasing Retention and Graduation in the Semester Transition (that report can be found in its entirety at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/AccessProgressSuccessReport.pdf>). That ad hoc committee has worked diligently through the winter break and start of the winter quarter to produce a report of its own which can be found at: http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/2012ReportOfTheAdHocCommitteeOnStudentSuccess-1_002.pdf. Included in that report are recommendations for 13 resolutions and two policy changes which touch on things ranging from remedial help for entering students (for instance, the creation of a 2012 Summer Mathematics Academy), changes to our admissions policies (for instance, what purpose is served by requiring a 2.0 GPA for in-state students and a 2.5 GPA for out-of-state students?), and expansion of the funding for the Honors Program. Some of these proposed changes have the potential to change the nature of Wright State in fundamental ways and all of them need to be carefully considered.

The more that faculty engage in these considerations, the better. I will be attending several college's winter quarter faculty meetings along with Associate Provost Tom Sudkamp in the hopes of getting faculty input on these proposed changes. Faculty should also contact the Senators from their college (you can find the list of current Senators at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senators/>) and let them know of their concerns as well as other ideas about how we can better serve our students.

Non-BUF Workload Agreement – The Faculty Senate’s Faculty Affairs Committee has been working with the Provost’s Office for almost two years on the generation of a workload agreement that would establish workloads for non-bargaining unit faculty members as we make the transition to semesters next fall. The version of that agreement that will be considered as new business at Monday’s Faculty Senate meeting can be found at:

<http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/DRAFTSemesterWorkloadNonBargainingFac.pdf>. Key features of the proposed agreement are an upper bound on the workload for non-BUFs and an appeals process by which non-BUFs can make a case for different workloads. The intent of the proposed policy is to retain the current combined workload during the conversion to semesters and to take into consideration that it is more difficult to prepare and to teach some courses than others.

In order for any such agreement to go into effect it must be approved both by the Faculty Senate and the Provost. If the Senate does not approve an agreement as old business at its March meeting it is unlikely that a workload agreement for non-BUFs will be in place in time for our first year on semesters. Chairs and deans are already beginning to make workload assignments and those will be finalized before the start of the spring quarter. Without an agreement the administration will be free to assign workloads, and no appeal process will be in place.

If you have suggestions or concerns about this proposed workload agreement for non-BUFs please feel free to share them with me, a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee: Cheryl Conley, COSM, Chair; Canfield, Annette, CONH; Diane Huelskamp, LAKE; Greta Knigga, CEHS; Joan Lumpkin, RSCOB; Sarah McGinley, COLA; Vanessa Starkey, CECS or with your college’s representatives to the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Handbook Changes – Wright State’s Faculty Handbook is jointly maintained by the Faculty Senate and the Provost and changes to the Handbook typically inspire parallel changes in Wright Way Policies by the Board of Trustees. As we make the transition to semesters a number of fairly trivial changes need to be made to the Handbook. But an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate worked for most of last year to evaluate the free speech policy that is articulated in our current Faculty Handbook and has provided helpful guidance regarding more substantive changes that will also be considered by the Senate. A complete set of the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook can be found at www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/FacHandbookChanges1-9-12_002.pdf and are also summarized at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/SynopsisHandbookChanges.pdf>

Faculty Governance – Please look for your Faculty Senators and especially those who represent you on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to provide updates on the activities of the Faculty Senate at your College’s faculty meetings. Faculty governance will work best if we have a good flow of information both to and from faculty and the Senate. As always, also feel free to send any comments, suggestions or concerns about our efforts to “transform the lives of our students and the communities we serve” to your senators, the Faculty Office (Pam.Zambenini@wright.edu; 775-2039) or directly to me (Dan.Krane@wright.edu; 775-2257).

Upcoming Events – At the January Faculty Senate meeting I promised to buy lunch for any senator that got students to write their name down more times than mine at one of the University Athletics Council’s “Blackboard to Backboard Challenge” games this year. Four of the six challenge games are behind us now and I have not yet had to pay up. But my offer now stands to all faculty for the remaining two Blackboard to Backboard Challenge games on February 12 (men vs. Milwaukee at 7 PM) and 23 (women vs. Youngstown State at 7 PM).

The Monday’s Faculty Senate meeting, will at 2:15 PM in E156 of the Student Union. All are very welcome to attend. An agenda for the meeting can be found at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/Fac12SenateBinder.pdf>

I hope that everyone is enjoying our last winter quarter at Wright State!

Dan Krane

Faculty President